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## **Cassis bill would protect Social Security numbers**

LANSING — Legislation introduced Thursday by Sen. Nancy Cassis (R-Novi) would protect people from unauthorized disclosure of their Social Security numbers. Senate Bill 795 is part of a larger initiative by Senate Republicans to protect against the rapidly growing crime of identity theft.

“In today’s high-tech world, the protection of your social security number is more vital than ever before,” Cassis said. “SB 795 will help protect our residents and keep confidential, personal information secure by prohibiting the unauthorized disclosure of social security numbers.”

SB 795 would prohibit individuals, companies, governmental organizations such as schools and universities, or other legal entities from disclosing to a third-party or publicly displaying the Social Security number of a person, unless that person consents or the disclosure is authorized by law.

“Identity theft is the fastest growing and most serious economic crime in the United States. It impacts financial institutions as well as people whose information is being illegally used,” said Novi Chief of Police, Doug Shaefer. “Identity theft and the inappropriate use of Social Security numbers are tools that terrorists and those who are attempting to evade the law use to their illegal advantage.”

Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema on Thursday announced that Senate Republicans have made protecting Michigan consumers from the rapidly growing crime of identity theft a top priority. A Judiciary Committee hearing is planned for the package at 1 p.m. on Tuesday in Room 210 of the Farnum Building, 125 W. Allegan St., Lansing.

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